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BEIJING REVIEW

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A CHINESE WEEKLY OF
NEWS AND VIEWS

Chinese Leaders on National Policies • Rural Responsibility
System and Socialist Road • Role of the Young Pioneers



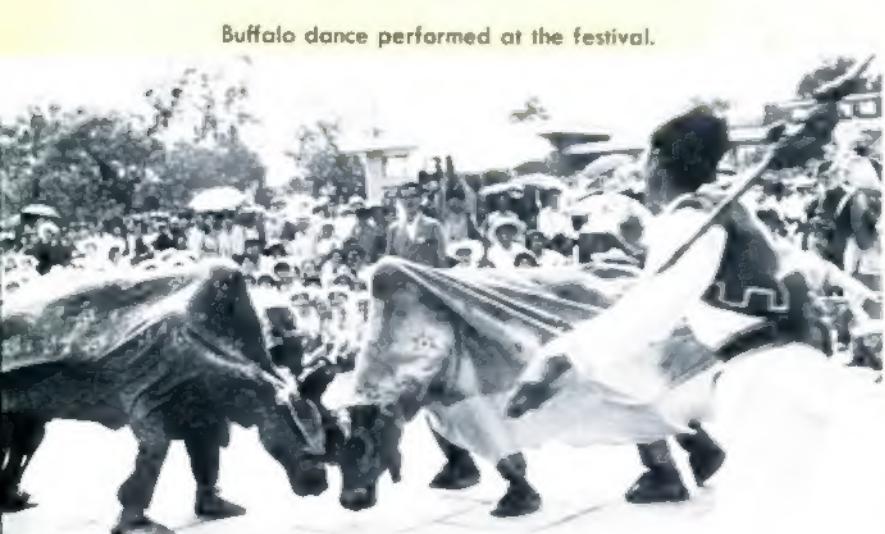


SPOTLIGHT

Singing festival in Nanning.



Women singing responsively from their boats.

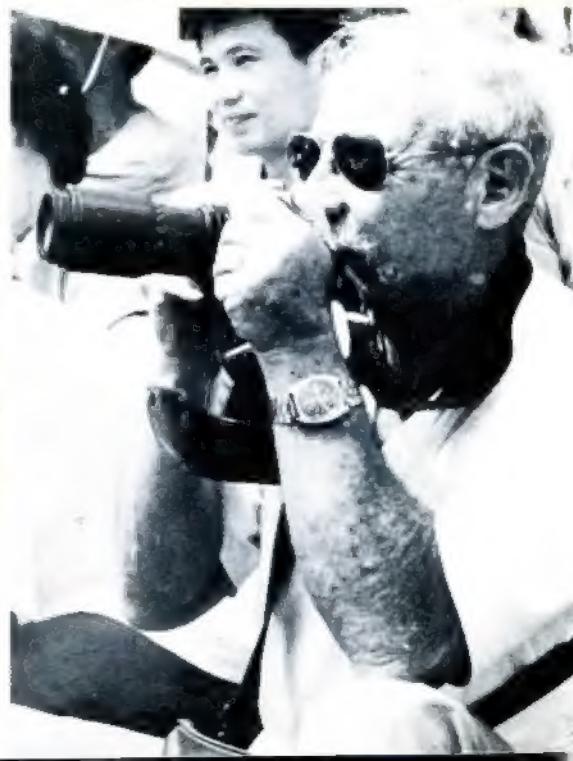


Buffalo dance performed at the festival.

Zhuang Minority Singing Festival

March 3 by the lunar calendar is the traditional singing festival of the Zhuang people. Every year on this day, folk singers from all directions converge on parks, public squares and village corners for responsive singing and sports and games.

A tourist preserves the moment.



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COVER: Beijing Young Pioneers take part in Oct. 1 National Day festivities. Photo by Zhou Youma	

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

Chinese Leaders on National Policies

Chinese leaders Deng Xiaoping, Hu Yaobang and Zhao Ziyang have recently elaborated on policy decisions on such major issues as economic construction, talented people, the open policy, prices and Taiwan and Hongkong (p. 6).

The Way to Vitalize Chinese Enterprises

The key to reviving China's enterprises is to extend the decision-making power of enterprises and to safeguard the status of the workers as masters of enterprises. With the correct relationships of state to enterprise and workers to management clearly established, China should see a new dawn of productivity and advancement (p. 4).

The US "Star Wars" Strategy

As the two superpowers — the United States and the Soviet Union — move their arms race from the earth to outer space, mankind is further plunged into the shadow of war. This article takes a close look at the US "Star Wars" programme as announced by President Ronald Reagan in March 1983 — its content, impact and danger (p. 16).

Nature of Household Contract System

Second of a series on China's rural responsibility system. Our correspondent discusses how the household contract system is incorporated into the collective economy, how it changes the roles of the peasants and the collective and spurs the development of collective projects (p. 23).

Young Pioneers Mark 35th Birthday

To commemorate the 35th birthday of the Chinese Young Pioneers, *Beijing Review* examines the history and development of the children's organization since its birth, and the activities it organized to help youngsters develop morally, intellectually and physically (p. 26).

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The Way to Vitalize Enterprises

by JIN QI
Economic Editor

Socialist enterprises, where the workers are their own masters free from capitalist exploitation, should vibrate with life and vigour. But many of them are not faring very well. This long-puzzling problem, which has been the subject of painstaking research and experimentation, is now fully explained by the decision on reforming the economic structure recently adopted by the Third Plenary Session of the 12th Party Central Committee. Taking invigoration of China's enterprises as the key to restructuring the national economy, this programmatic document provides two fundamental ways to deal with this problem: Extending the decision-making power of enterprises owned by all the people by establishing a correct relationship between them and the state, and safeguarding the status of the workers and staff members as masters of the enterprises by establishing correct relationships between them and their enterprises.

The programme clearly establishes the roles and responsibilities of the state, the enterprises and the workers. More importantly, it has come to grips with the essential question of the distribution of power, responsibility and interests.

In the past, overconcentration of power in the hands of the state had left little room for enterprises to make their own decisions. At the bottom of this was the traditional concept that because the enterprises are owned by all the peo-

ple, they should be managed exclusively by the socialist state on behalf of the people. This reduced enterprises to mere appendages of state institutions — they could only do what they were told to, in a prescribed way.

Both Marxism and socialist practice show that the ownership of an enterprise can be properly separated from its management powers. This has long been the case under capitalism, and can hardly be avoided under socialism. Because social demand is very complex and ever-changing, and the conditions in enterprises differ in a thousand and one ways, it is impossible for state institutions to know the entire situation and to quickly respond to all changes. If the state were to directly administer and manage every enterprise owned by all the people, it could not possibly avoid subjectivism and bureaucratism, which restrain vitality.

The current reform is designed to separate the state's economic guidance from the enterprises' power to manage their own affairs, so that each can fulfil its responsibilities. The enterprises' decision-making powers and responsibilities, in turn, should be shared among their masters, that is, the workers and staff members. Only this will bring out the energy and enthusiasm now latent in production.

However, this will not change the essential nature of enterprises owned by all the people. State institutions will still exert their influence on management policy,

and keep enterprises on the socialist road through plans, policies, decrees, economic levers and necessary administrative intervention.

Absolute egalitarianism was a major drawback of China's former system of distribution. It left some enterprises living off the state, and workers and staff living off the enterprises. This resulted from the traditional idea that when enterprises are owned by all the people, all parties involved should get an equal share of their gains or losses. This sounds reasonable. But actually it violates the socialist principle of distribution according to work. Enterprises vary in their performances and the workers in their contributions. To deny these differences and give every enterprise or worker an equal share of the pie only helps poorly managed enterprises and lazy workers and does injustice to the well-managed and the diligent.

The current reform aims at abolishing egalitarianism and implementing the socialist principle of distribution according to work. The hard workers will be rewarded and the lazy ones will be punished. The enterprises, which will pay taxes instead of handing in their profits to the state, will bear full responsibility for their own gains or losses, and the workers' wages and bonuses will be commensurate with their abilities and actual contributions.

These measures have proven effective through repeated trials. They will help arouse the initiative of the enterprises and enthusiasm of their workers and staff



LETTERS

More Vivid

Lately, I have seen some improvements in *Beijing Review* and this makes me very happy. I have subscribed to your weekly since 1973, and have begun to understand the Chinese people. I save every issue of your magazine. I believe it will become even more vivid and attractive and will have more readers in the near future.

I think the articles in the international section are excellent. I also find the articles about improvements in China's technology very interesting.

I suggest that you start a new column on learning Chinese. Some of your publications, like *China Reconstructs*, have such a column. It can popularize Chinese among friends, colleagues and students.

Mauro Lomer Barboza
Lima, Peru

More Stories Wanted On Party Consolidation

I suggest that your weekly give some reports about your country's Party consolidation.

The Chinese Communist Party now has 40 million members. This is an astonishing figure to foreigners. Being Communist Party members is very glorious, because they are talented people working hard to build the country. What kind of problem cannot be solved in China by 40 million talented people?

I have heard that some Party members take advantage of their position and power to seek personal gains, and some still form factions within the Party. Of course, such things are rare. But their deeds have infringed upon the interests of the masses, and

make the Party lose the confidence of the people. In my opinion, Party consolidation can solve these problems. So I hope your weekly will carry some articles about the real results of the Party consolidation.

In order to realize its goal of quadrupling the gross annual output value of industrial and agricultural production by the end of this century, China has opened its doors. People all over the world look forward to the realization of your goal, and hope China will become a rich country in the near future. At the same time, we are watching China's political situation. It is for this reason that I suggest you carry some articles about the Party consolidation.

Masatoshi Sawata
Hyogo, Japan

More on Open Cities

Recently, in carrying out the open policy, China enacted various economic policies and legal provisions. *Beijing Review* translated and published them, but your weekly lacks enough reports on the areas opened to the world. In Japan, every region published pamphlets introducing itself in order to attract more investors. China is a huge country, and many places are unknown to the Japanese people. I hope your magazine will introduce every area opened to outside investment.

Naotaro Muragama
Osaka, Japan

We have reported on Yantai, Qingdao and Dalian in "Beijing Review" No. 38, 39 and 43, and are preparing stories to introduce the other 11 cities opened to outside investment. — Ed.

and encourage them to make constant progress.

All these reforms will in no way alter the nature of the enterprises owned by all the people. The state will still get the lion's share of all economic returns, and will use them to promote socialist modernization and ultimately to improve the people's material and cultural lives.

The success achieved in rural reforms over the last few years is attributable to the household-based responsibility system introduced to the collective economy. It has provided a system of management compatible with the development of the forces of production by combining the power, responsibility and interests of all parties involved. Its basic principles are also applicable to cities, although conditions in the cities are more complicated.

The reform of the enterprises will also involve reforms in many other fields, such as planning, pricing and the wage systems. Enterprises will introduce diverse ways of combining power, responsibility and interests.

There has been no lack of success stories over the last few years. The Shoudu Iron and Steel Company, for instance, has been growing vigorously since it introduced the economic responsibility system. But most other enterprises are still feeling their way forward.

There may be setbacks. But the ice has been broken, the course charted. China's enterprises, renewed with vigour, will have a bright future.

Chinese Leaders Explain Policy Decisions

In the last few days Chinese leaders Deng Xiaoping, Hu Yaobang and Zhao Ziyang have outlined some of China's recent policy decisions during conferences as well as meetings with friends from home and abroad.

Economic Construction. At the Third Plenum of the Central Advisory Commission of the Communist Party of China on Oct. 22, Chairman of the Commission Deng Xiaoping said, "The political and economic situation in China today is excellent. The stability and unity are better than ever before. The 'Decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China on Reform of the Economic Structure' is a historic document. Given orderly work and careful guidance from the Central Committee, economic construction holds great promise."

Deng went on, "The present

Party Central Committee is mature and has handled all kinds of problems appropriately. Those who are doing the actual work have done everything methodically.

"The average annual growth of the economy over the past few years and the fulfilment of the production targets set for the Sixth Five-Year Plan in just three years indicate the possibility of quadrupling the gross annual value of industrial and agricultural production by the end of the century," he continued. "By 2000, the Chinese people will be comparatively well off and China will be one of the world's economically strong countries. Political unity and stability in China will be ever more consolidated and Chinese influence in the world will be greatly increased. If we work hard with one mind in the coming 16 years, the future will be bright."

Talented Workers. Discovering and promoting talented people is the key to the success of the economic reforms. Deng emphasized at the plenum.

He said, "All the 10 problems referred to in the decision on reform of the economic structure are important. But the most important is the ninth one: the problem of respecting knowledge and talent.

"At present it is necessary to promote many young cadres," Deng said. "They will gain practical experience and will become mature in a few years. Those in their thirties and forties, especially, have many years ahead of them at their posts. Veteran cadres must emancipate their minds and work more closely with them."

At a meeting with members of democratic parties and people with-

Hu Yaobang speaks at meeting with members of democratic parties and people without party affiliation on reform of the economic structure.



out party affiliations, General Secretary Hu Yaobang said the 20th century has seen two great changes in China. The first was the 1911 Revolution, which overthrew the feudal monarchy, and the second was the founding of the People's Republic and the carrying out of the socialist transformation and socialist construction.

China has begun its third great change in the 1980s to accomplish reunification of the motherland and quadruple the gross annual value of industrial and agricultural production by the end of this century. To realize these goals by 2000, it is vital to have a farsighted, long-term plan and especially to respect science and technology, education, and to promote talented young people."

The Open Policy. At the Oct. 22 plenum, Deng said that after China realizes its target by the year 2000, it will be able to catch up with the developed countries in another 30 or 50 years. To realize this goal, China will adhere to the policy of opening to the world both now and in the future. If China closes its doors, it will never succeed in socialist modernization.

As this policy is implemented, some negative tendencies may come to surface. But this is nothing. China's economy is basically owned by the whole people, so both the state and the people will benefit from the open policy.

Prices. In talks with former Japanese Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki, Premier Zhao Ziyang said, "The restructuring of the national economy will focus on reform in the cities, but it will not be limited to urban areas. The key to the restructuring lies in reforming the pricing system. This price reform will not result in nationwide price hikes, because the reform will be a structural readjustment, carried out gradually under strict controls. This will make the pricing system

more rational. If the prices of certain commodities are raised, wages will be raised accordingly, to ensure that living standards will not be lowered."

The Taiwan Issue. Deng told Suzuki that the terms of the "one country, two systems" concept would be even more liberal for Taiwan than they were for Hongkong, because the Taiwan authorities could keep their own troops after reunification with the mainland. This means that neither party will swallow up the other, and no one will lose anything. There is no need for the Taiwan authorities to worry.

Deng also said, "We must insist on solving the Taiwan issue peacefully. And we have patience. But we have never promised not to use non-peaceful means. The reason for this is simple: If we made such a commitment, peaceful reunification would be out of the question."

Circular Outlines Plans to Help Poor

A recent circular issued by the Chinese Government calls on all local governments to adopt effective measures to help the tens of millions of people in poor areas shake off their poverty as soon as possible and enter the mainstream of economic development.

Although the living standards of the average peasant are rising steadily, the economic growth is not balanced among all areas, or even among families in the same area. Well-off counties and prefectures and high income earners — making more than 10,000 yuan, or even 100,000 yuan a year — have multiplied in the five years since the responsibility system was introduced to the Changjiang (Yangtze) and Pearl River deltas, and other areas where education

and communications facilities are fairly good. But some peasants living in remote or mountainous regions still have difficulties making ends meet.

In Changde Prefecture in Hunan Province, for example, a quarter of the 6 million residents live in the mountains. The average annual net income of 500,000 people in these mountainous areas last year was less than 100 yuan per person. This is far below the national average.

Beginning in 1985, the government will increase its investment in poor areas, and exempt the poorest ones from agricultural tax for from one to five years, depending on the circumstances.

In mandating more flexible policies for poor areas, the government circular says local people may choose whatever methods they think are suitable for production, provided the land remains under state control.

Contracts on land leased to poor peasants under the responsibility system may be extended for 30 years, although contracts in the rest of China are usually no longer than 15 years. Contracted rights will be transferable. Domestic animals should be shared out or sold to households, the circular says, and the raisers have the right to slaughter or sell whatever they like. Those peasants who manage mountains and grassy slopes will be given contracts on a long-term basis.

According to the circular, the state will also give a free hand to poor peasants in purchasing and selling agricultural produce, including grain, timber, bamboo, animal products and sideline products. The state no longer exercises unified control over these products.

The circular encourages provinces to operate businesses in poor areas. Such enterprises will be exempt from income tax for five

years. The tax regulations for town and individual enterprises, family shops and private pedlars will be set by the local government, according to the circumstances.

The circular also urges all local governments to increase commodity circulation channels and improve education in poor areas. Plans should be worked out to ensure universal primary education, it said.

Railways to Grow On Foreign Funds

Foreign investors are welcome to join Chinese industrial and mining enterprises in speeding up railway construction in China, a Ministry of Railways spokesman told journalists at an Oct. 16 press conference.

As part of this plan, China has already signed an agreement with the World Bank and the Japanese Overseas Corporation Fund for loans needed for railway construction, which has gone into effect. Investors from Hongkong and Macao and overseas Chinese will be granted preferential treatment, said the spokesman, and they will be honoured for their contributions to China's modernization.

Higher prices will be charged on goods shipped on railways built with foreign funds, so as to generate the profit needed to recover investments or to repay loans.

The Ministry of Railways monopoly of railway construction and management will give way to diversified forms of management, and localities will have more say in running the railways. Local governments and industrial and mining enterprises are encouraged to build and run their own railways, with state subsidies. During the Seventh Five-Year Plan (1986-

90), 3,000 kilometres of railways will be built by local authorities.

Railway transportation and energy development figure heavily in China's modernization programme. Since 1958, the total tonnage of railway freight has multiplied more than seven times, while the total mileage of railways in use has only a little more than doubled. When used at their full capacity, railways now handle 60 per cent of the nation's total cargo tonnage. More railways are badly needed.

Major efforts will be devoted to revamping old lines during the Seventh Five-Year Plan. The percentage of lines which are electrified will rise from 4.5 to 13, and the percentage of lines using diesel locomotives will increase from 13 to 17. Most double-track and other kinds of railways will be built in the coastal areas. Some will be laid in Shanxi, to help ship the coal out of the province.

Computers will be introduced in railway management. Big stations, especially pivotal ones, will be renovated, and new ones will be added. By the end of this century Chinese railways will be using technology at the level the advanced countries use today.

The rolling stock industry will make much headway, too. Production and repairing capacities will both be increased, and better railcars and wagons will be manufactured. At present, China's three leading rolling stock factories are negotiating with foreign businesses to import advanced technology.

Tibet Develops Energy Resources

The government of the Tibet Autonomous Region plans to invest 71.85 million yuan, almost one-fourth of its major capital construction funds this year, to tap local energy resources.

The various sectors of China's economy have been unbalanced as a result of the interference of the "Leftist" line. One of the most serious problems is that energy production can't meet the demand of the manufacturing industry. The ongoing economic readjustment, which began in the late 1970s, has changed the situation somewhat, and the increase of huge investment in developing Tibet's energy is aimed at fundamentally solving the problem.

Tibet has many natural features which make energy production possible. For instance, the region's hydroelectric power potential is estimated at about 200 million kilowatts, or 30 per cent of the country's total.

Tibet also has the most abundant geothermal resources in China. Its solar energy potential ranks second in the world, only after the Sahara Desert. In addition, Tibet, "the roof of the world," has begun to use its whipping winds to make energy.

By the end of 1983 the region had built 637 power stations of various kinds, with a combined generating capacity of 100,490 kilowatts.

The region is building its largest hydroelectric power station, with a generating capacity of 10,400 kilowatts, in southeast Tibet. Construction of a number of small power stations, with a combined generating capacity of more than 10,000 kilowatts, is under way in various rural areas.

The Yangbajing geothermal experimental power station near the capital city of Lhasa is the largest in China. The station can generate 7,000 kilowatts, making it one of Lhasa's major electricity suppliers. At present, another 3,000-kilowatt generator is being installed.

Taking energy from the wind in Tibet began a few years ago. Windmill generators have been introduced from the interior into

Nagqu, Ngari, Xigaze and Qamdo Prefectures. This year Nagqu Prefecture helped the local people install more than 100 of these windmill generators, each able to generate 100 watts. This has changed the herdsmen's lives: they no longer rely on yak butter lamps to illuminate their tents.

By the end of last year, there were also 121,000 square metres of bothouses and bathhouses heated by solar energy in Tibet.

Correcting a Misjudged Case

An intermediate court in Kaifeng city has overturned corruption verdicts handed down in 1983 against a successful electric appliances factory director and five of his managers.

Wang Jishan, who headed the Haiyan Electric Appliances Factory in Kaifeng city, Henan Province, was sentenced to five years in prison after a jealous Party secretary brought the charges of corruption against him in August 1982. The verdict was reversed this September.

The factory, a private enterprise, opened its doors in November of 1980 with capital pooled by Wang Jishan and others. The business was an immediate success because it was the only factory in central-south China's five provinces that produced electric meter parts. Its products were also well received in other parts of the country. The 1981 output value topped 800,000 yuan, though there were only 29 workers and staff members. The factory's success was praised by the central, provincial and city government departments.

However, Liu Chunming, the Communist Party secretary in the district where the factory is located, envied the success of the private enterprise. He was angry that a tiny factory had so many orders and made so much money while

many big state-run enterprises suffered losses. He decided that the factory's leaders must be cheating. He dispatched investigators to the factory to check its accounts and then claimed that the main leaders were all embezzling funds.

But the accusations could not hold water since Wang and his managers were not government employees. They headed a private enterprise and were elected by their workers. Soon Liu, as Party secretary, appointed Wang and the other factory leaders as the official director and deputy directors, making them government representatives of the factory. As government employees, they were then charged with corruption.

In August of 1982, Wang and the five other heads of the factory were arrested. Six months later, they were sentenced by the Longting District court to prison terms ranging from one to five years. Soon after, the factory was closed and all the workers were left without jobs.

After the court verdict was handed down, family members, relatives and friends of the accused wrote letters to officials to express their anger about the unfair judgment. There was also an outcry from the press. Correspondents from *Henan Ribao* (Henan Daily), *Jingji Ribao* (Economic Daily) and Xinhua News Agency all wrote reports about the case. Leading cadres in the central and provincial governments told local officials to correct the injustice. But Liu and his supporters just ignored the instructions.

Finally the intermediate people's court of Kaifeng heard the appeal and reversed the earlier verdict. As a result, the city Party committee of Kaifeng ordered Liu to take a leave from his post and make a self-examination. The Party also ordered those involved in the unjust charges to repay the factory for its losses and to help it reopen as soon as possible.

In an interview with a Xinhua correspondent, Liu Zhengwei, deputy secretary of the Henan provincial Party committee, denounced the wrongdoing and warned others that it should not happen again.

New urban economic reforms announced last month by the Third Plenary Session of the 12th Party Central Committee encourage the development of private enterprises to work alongside collective and state-run businesses. Party officials have pointed out that attacks against private factories, such as that which took place in Kaifeng, could damage the reform efforts.

The case also shows that "Left" influences still exist in some areas, though eight years have passed since the downfall of the gang of four. The Party has worked to eliminate such influences.

Fines Help Fight Illiteracy in Hebei

Parents who do not send their children to school will have to pay a fine, according to new regulations adopted by the Sanhe government in Hebei Province.

The Temporary Provisions on Education state that if parents do not send their children to school by the age of seven, or if they take school-age children out of classes, they must pay a fine of between 30 and 50 yuan a year until the child is 15 years old.

These local regulations are part of a nationwide campaign to combat illiteracy in China. According to 1983 statistics, about 6 per cent of all school-age children do not attend classes.

Primary school education has been popularized in the cities and the economically developed areas. Secondary education has also gained a firm foothold in some cities. But in the countryside, especially in the mountainous and remote regions, much work still needs to

be done to wipe out illiteracy. According to the 1982 census, about 235.82 million people in China over 12 years old, or 23.5 per cent of the total population, could only read a little and write a few words, or didn't know how to read and write at all.

Zhang Wensong, Vice-Minister of Education, said recently that China will strive to eliminate adult illiteracy by 1995, and universalize primary school education by the end of 1990. The focus for the next decade will be to educate 80 million young and middle-aged peasants.

One model programme was set up in Bazhong County, Sichuan Province. The area was known for its illiteracy in the 1950s, but the local government worked hard to reverse the trend. A network of schools linking county, district, township and village was set up. Now 90.87 per cent of the people in Bazhong can read and write. This year, UNESCO awarded the county a prize in recognition of its efforts to wipe out adult illiteracy.

As the living standards of peasants get higher, more and more peasants are investing their money in local schools. For example, household or spare-time primary school classes have been opened in the rural areas of Shenyang in Liaoning Province. This combined with the firm action of county officials to keep children in school will enable China to fulfil its goal of eliminating illiteracy within the next decade.



Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom is welcomed by President Li Xiannian and a flower-bearing child.

"China's achievements and experiences in construction intrigue us very much," said Gayoom during his meeting with Deng Xiaoping, Chairman of the Central Advisory Commission of the Communist Party of China. "Your achievements are an encouragement to the third world countries," said the president.

Gayoom arrived in Beijing Oct. 25 on his first visit to China. He met with Premier Zhao Ziyang and President Li Xiannian on Oct. 25 and with Deng Xiaoping on Oct. 26.

Deng told Gayoom that China supports the third world and its United Nations Security Council vote "belongs to the third world countries."

"China belongs to the third world. It will remain so in the future, even when it becomes a developed country," Deng said.

Chairman Deng told the Maldivian president that the recently adopted reforms in urban areas will "certainly quicken the pace of our development." He said, "In three to five years, practice will prove the correctness of this decision (the reforms adopted by the Third Plenary Session of the 12th Party Central Committee), despite different deficiencies that may turn up during the reform."

In illustrating China's path to success, Deng told Gayoom that Mao Zedong had integrated Marxism-Leninism with China's realities so that a socialist path unique to China was developed. "In our construction, we'll also follow our own road by integrating Marxism-Leninism with the actual conditions in our country," said Deng.

President Gayoom commended the Chinese leader for the policy.

Maldivian President Praises Chinese

President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of the Republic of Maldives, during his recent visit to Beijing, told China's leaders that the third world countries are impressed with China's growth and achievements.

During Gayoom's talks with Premier Zhao and President Li, both sides expressed satisfaction with the relations between the two countries since they established diplomatic ties in 1972, and urged further expansion of two-way co-operation.

Li and Gayoom also discussed the international situation. They both expressed support for efforts to expand regional co-operation in South Asia and the proposal on making the Indian Ocean a peace zone. The Republic of Maldives is an island group off the southern tip of India.

China Endorses Contadora Aims

China firmly supports the Contadora Group's efforts to solve Central American problems by peaceful means, said Chinese President Li Xiannian on Oct. 24.

Li made his remarks during a meeting with Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor. Mexico's foreign secretary arrived in Beijing Oct. 19 to pay an official visit to China at the invitation of Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian.

Central America has suffered constant unrest. Armed conflicts have occurred frequently and foreign intervention has intensified the already tense situation. "The Central American countries, however, should settle their disputes through peaceful negotiations," Li said.

During Sepulveda's stay in Beijing, Premier Zhao Ziyang and Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian held meetings with him. They both praised Mexico for its efforts to ease the tensions in Central America, safeguard world peace, establish a new world economic order and promote North-South dialogue.

The Chinese leaders expressed concern about the Latin American problems. "Provided correct policies are adopted and the debt problems settled, the Latin American countries will have a bright future," said Wu on Oct. 22.

Sepulveda said that Mexico appreciates China's constant support for the Latin American countries. He noted that Mexico advocates a complete elimination of foreign intervention in the region so that the Latin American countries can solve their differences on their own.

China and Mexico established diplomatic relations in 1972. Mexico was one of the first countries in Latin America to form diplomatic ties with China. Since then, the two countries have been developing friendly links. On the basis of favourable political and cultural exchanges, the two countries in recent years have also strengthened their economic ties.

"Our present task," Sepulveda said, "is to find feasible co-operative projects profitable in the shortest possible time as a foundation for future co-operation."

Zhao agreed, saying that the two countries should learn from each other and help each other through mutually beneficial development. He said that Sino-Mexico economic co-operation has great potential.

China, Turkey Share Same View

China and Turkey see eye-to-eye on many issues, Premier Zhao Ziyang said on Oct. 26 at a meeting with visiting Turkish Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu and his party.

Halefoglu arrived in Beijing on the same day, at Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian's invitation.

Zhao also spoke highly of Turkey's efforts to oppose foreign occupation of Afghanistan and Kampuchea, to support the Arab cause and to end the Iran-Iraq war. He said he was very pleased to note Turkey's better relations with the Middle East and Islamic countries.

Turkey is a bridge between East and West. Halefoglu said his country hopes to be able to play a bridging role and improve relations with China, particularly in economics and trade.

Zhao said, "We should pay more attention to developing South-South co-operation. China and Turkey, as developing countries, have their own strong and weak points. We wish to co-operate by learning from each other and complementing each other's deficiencies."

During the talks between the two foreign ministers, Halefoglu said that the Iran-Iraq war has brought damage to the two belligerent countries and jeopardized peace and security in the region and the rest of the world. The Turkish Government has tried to seek ways of bringing the war to an early end through bilateral and multilateral efforts, and will continue its efforts in this respect, he said.

Halefoglu also said Israel must withdraw from the land it occupies and must recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Foreign troops must also withdraw from Lebanon. Turkey supports Egypt's efforts to return to the Islamic Conference, he added.

President Li Xiannian met with Halefoglu and his party on Oct. 28. Halefoglu told Li that his visit to Turkey last March made a lasting impression on all the Turkish people. He also said exchanging views between government leaders will further the development of Sino-Turkish relations.

South Asia

No Need for Indian-Pakistani War

by WEN ZHENG

THE Indian press has reported in recent weeks that the threat of an Indian-Pakistani war is growing and could even occur before the end of the year. Such hearsay, of course, has alarmed peace-loving people in South Asia.

In the past few years, India and Pakistan have both made efforts to improve their relations. A joint commission on the ministerial level, established last year, has opened up a new area for economic co-operation. After the Indian-Pakistani trade talks earlier this year, both sides expressed hopes that they can increase trade volume on a large scale. The two nations have also taken measures to promote travel and cultural exchanges.

Since May the foreign ministers of the two countries have met many times, and they have made some progress towards a no-war pact and a treaty of peace and friendship. The leaders of both countries have repeatedly expressed their hopes of developing friendly relations.

In view of this trend, the Indian-Pakistani ties seem to be improving instead of worsening. So the recent reports of a growing threat of war are difficult to understand.

After both nations won their independence, India and Pakistan were uneasy neighbours and conflicts did arise. But, in recent years, bilateral relations have improved and the atmosphere is more relaxed. The two countries

are now concentrating their attentions on how to combat the consequences of the world economic crisis in order to develop their economies. Most observers believe that neither India nor Pakistan can afford to use their manpower, material resources and funds to fight a war.

South Asia occupies an important strategic position in the Indian Ocean. With the international situation as it is today, peace and stability must be maintained in South Asia to avoid bringing the two superpowers and their rivalry into the region. India, Pakistan and other countries real-

ize the need for peace and are willing to make contributions towards friendly co-operation among the South Asian countries.

India, the main power in South Asia, plays a significant role in the affairs of the region. Responsibility comes with such an important position. The meeting of the foreign ministers of seven South Asian countries, held last July in Male, Maldives, clearly expressed the desire to further strengthen co-operation and collective self-reliance in the region. India, no doubt, will play a great part in those efforts.

People hope to hear more about peace and the development of friendly co-operation in South Asia instead of predictions about war.

Burma

Emphasizing Agricultural Growth

by ZHONG TAI

BURMA has been a prominent agricultural country since ancient times, sometimes known as "the nation of rice." Leaders of the Burmese Ministry of Agriculture and Forests and representatives of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) awarded prizes in Rangoon on Oct. 16, the fourth annual UN World Food Day. Eleven Burmese agricultural products, including rice, wheat, corn, sesame seeds and peanuts, received awards.

Since Burma began its Third Four-Year Plan (1978-82), agricultural production has been going up steadily. In the fiscal year 1983-84, net agricultural value increas-

ed 4.8 per cent and the Burmese people grew 14.81 million tons of rice, an increase of 3 per cent over the previous fiscal year. It is estimated that fiscal 1984 will see another bumper harvest.

This great success is due to the introduction of advanced farming techniques and the hard work of the farmers.

The total rice output was only about 5 million tons in 1948, the year Burma won independence. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forests began experimenting with improved varieties of rice in 1975 and achieved high yields. In the fiscal year 1982-83, the high-yield rice was planted in 82 townships, where the rice output accounted for 62.2 per cent of the nation's total.

Farmers have been organized to plough the fields under the technical guidance of local agricultural institutions. Besides the improved rice varieties, better use of fertilizer and intensive farming have increased rice output from 672 kg per acre in 1975 to 1,511 kg per acre in fiscal 1983-84. The rice which received the FAO award yielded 6,270 kg per acre. Although the high-yield rice fields are still in only a few districts, they are of great significance for Burma.

The Burmese Government has put great emphasis on agricultural experimentation and research work. More than 40 agricultural research centres have been set up across the country. Staff members work to develop techniques suitable to local conditions, and do different kinds of experiments to increase rice yields.

The Hmawbi Research Centre has been experimenting with seed strains, organic and chemical fertilizers, cultivation techniques and ways to eliminate plant diseases and insect pests. This research centre has 400 acres of experimental farmland. It cultivates more than 60 varieties of rice selected from various parts of Burma, and has introduced about 150 improved varieties from the Philippines, Australia, India, Mexico and Belgium. It has also developed 15 varieties of its own rice, among which Hmawbi No. 2 is well known for its good looks and even better taste.

The Hmawbi Research Centre has not only sold large quantities of the improved varieties, but also published pamphlets which popularize scientific farming techniques among the farmers. Its work is guided by the slogan, "Popularize improved varieties of rice and increase grain output for the country." It shows the agronomists' determination to combine their research work with the needs of the Burmese farmers.

South Korea

Students Intensify Protests

by REN YAN

STUDENT anti-government protests calling for democracy in south Korea are gaining momentum, as they have grown in size and have broadened their demands.

Students held large and frequent street demonstrations last month. On Oct. 8 students from Korea University and Yonsei University poured out of Seoul Stadium after a football match and staged a massive demonstration of more than 10,000 people, a scale rarely seen in recent years. Students at Seoul University also held demonstrations and clashed with police who had taken up positions surrounding the campus. Similar incidents have been reported at other universities, such as Kyung-hi and Hanyang.

In the demonstrations, students demanded that officials guarantee campus democracy and release students arrested in earlier protests. They also demanded the resigna-

tion of Chun Du Hwan, establishment of a minimum wage, freedom to take part in trade union activities and a restoration of democracy in south Korea.

A striking feature of the recent demonstrations is that workers have also taken part. Protests by students have occurred almost daily and have taken many forms.

South Korean authorities on Oct. 24 sent 6,000 police to Seoul University to prevent students from boycotting mid-term exams as part of their campaign. Police arrested some 100 students, and the act aroused indignation among students.

The act of sending armed police to suppress unarmed students is not a sign of power but, just weakness. South Korean authorities should understand that suppression of students will not achieve anything. The campus struggle is only a part of the south Korean people's anti-autocracy movement. The momentum for peace and democracy can not be stopped.

Argentina-Chile

Peaceful End to Border Dispute

by GUAN YAN ZHONG

A PEACE treaty ending the century-old Beagle Channel border dispute between Chile and Argentina was made public on Oct. 19 in the capitals of both countries.

The treaty, initialled in Vatican City, says the two countries solemnly reiterate their commitment to maintaining lasting peace and permanent friendship and to solving their differences through direct negotiations. It obliges both

not to resort to force in dealing with each other. The additional documents provide for an Argentine-Chilean standing mediation committee to handle future disputes, and an arbitration tribunal formed by representatives of the two countries and from a third country.

The treaty defines each country's land, sea, and sea-bed territory on the southern tip of South America. A dividing line will be drawn from the eastern tip of the Strait of Magellan to Tierra del Fuego which separates the Atlantic

and Pacific waters over which Argentina and Chile are to exercise sovereignty respectively. Chile gave up its claims to the eastern part of the Straits of Magellan. In exchange, the three Beagle Channel islands of Pictor, Nueva and Lennox are part of Chile, and its territorial waters extend three nautical miles around the islands.

The common economic activity area, about 118,000 square kilometres east of the islands, was abolished. Argentina will enjoy free navigation rights through the sea route between the three Beagle islands and Navarino Island, which are within Chile's territorial waters.

The Beagle Channel, about 400 kilometres long and five to six kilometres wide, is on the southernmost tip of South America. It is a strategic passage between the Atlantic and the Pacific, and is rich in oil. Years of arbitration by the British monarchs failed to bring the dispute over its ownership to an end.

In 1979 the two predominantly Catholic countries asked the Pope in Rome to mediate. He made a proposal in December 1980 which Chile accepted but Argentina did not.

After the democratic government of Argentina was elected, it resolved to finally settle the dispute peacefully. The foreign ministers of the two countries signed a joint declaration of peace and friendship last January. Afterwards, the negotiations progressed rapidly. The final agreement was based on the Pope's 1980 proposal.

The treaty was welcomed by the people of both countries. It will set an example for all Latin American countries to settle their disputes peacefully.

President Raul Alfonsin of Argentina praised the news as very joyful and pointed out that dialogue is an indispensable instru-

ment in settling disputes. Peace can be realized as long as there are sincerity and determination, he said.

Chilean President Augusto

Pinochet expressed his satisfaction with the agreement. Secretary-General of the United Nations Javier Perez de Cuellar also praised the treaty.

Angola

Improves Relations With the West

by JIANG XIANMING

IN its efforts to seek peace and in an attempt to boost its economy, Angola has sought to broaden its relations with other countries.

Over the past few years, Angola has improved relations with Western countries, while maintaining friendly and co-operative relations with the Soviet Union and Cuba.

Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos stressed in a recent speech that his country pursues a policy of non-alignment and is willing to co-operate with all countries on the basis of mutual respect for sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit. It is under this policy that Angola has launched its diplomatic activities. President Dos Santos visited France, Italy and Spain last September, a trip that had positive impacts in the West.

France is an important economic partner of Angola. The two countries moved to strengthen economic co-operation as early as 1981 when President Dos Santos visited France. Discussions were held recently about French aid to Angola in new technologies, heavy industrial equipment, personnel training and equipment for the electricity and petroleum industries. In the past several years, Angola has signed economic co-operation agreements with France totalling one billion francs (US\$111 million). French exports to An-

gola last year surpassed the 50 billion francs mark.

The Elf-Aquitaine Oil Corp. of France is now involved in oil exploration in Angola. It joins a number of Italian, British and Portuguese firms already working in the oil search.

Noteworthy also are the considerably improved relations between Angola and its former colonizer, Portugal. A number of senior Portuguese military officers are reportedly in Angola helping to train the Angolan armed forces. Portuguese Foreign Minister Jaime Gama declared last February during his visit to the Angolan capital Luanda that Portugal would seek friendly relations with Angola in the future.

Angola has also been in close contact this year with the United States to discuss normalization of Angolan-US relations and the major issues in southern Africa. During each of his recent trips to southern Africa, US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Chester A. Crocker has met with senior Angolan officials. A delegation headed by US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Frank George Wisner recently visited Angola as well. Although there are no new breakthroughs in US-Angolan relations because of continued US support for South Africa on such issues as the independence of Namibia, the door for dialogue between the two countries has been opened.

Meanwhile, economic ties

between the United States and Angola has also strengthened. The United States is an especially active trade partner of Angola. Last year Angola earned US\$1.7 billion from its oil exports, and the United States was the biggest buyer.

Soon after Angola won its independence in November 1975, the civil war erupted there. The Soviet Union and Cuba sent tens of thousands of Cuban troops and many Soviet advisors to Angola. Since then, Moscow has provided large quantities of military aid to Angola, and Angola has maintained friendly relations with both the Soviets and Cubans.

At present, the United States and the Soviet Union have clashed over the issues of Namibia's independence, withdrawal of South African troops from southern Angola and pullout of Cuban troops from Angola. The issues are all linked and the two sides have gone back and forth on the debate with no success. In the past, the Soviet Union enjoyed widespread support and superiority in the southern Africa region, but the United States has recently strengthened its diplomatic offensive there.

The invasion by South Africa and the civil war brought serious economic difficulties to Angola, consuming more than half of its revenue. By the end of 1982, the war set the Angolan economy back US\$10 billion. The gross national product of Angola in 1982 was only US\$3.5 billion, less than US\$500 per capita. To help stimulate its sagging economy, the Angolan Government has decided to develop relations with Western countries while maintaining friendly ties with its Soviet and Cuban allies. The Angolan foreign minister said not long ago that Angola will pursue a policy of non-alignment, good-neighbourliness and many-sided relations, and will not join any military bloc.

Africa

Efforts to Fight Serious Drought

by YAN ZHENG

A SERIOUS drought which began late in 1981 is still affecting large parts of Africa. The 25 countries hardest hit are expected to suffer a combined shortage of 5.34 million tons of food, or double the normal shortage in non-drought years.

The affected countries have been doing the best they can to fight the drought and solve the food shortage problems.

Mauritania, in western Africa, harvested only 15,000 tons of food crops last year, one-fifth of its normal production. A national committee has been established to draw up plans to deal with the situation, and many peasants scattered throughout the countryside have been resettled in places with better water supplies or transportation lines. The Mauritanian Government has collected the equivalent of US\$2 million in donations from less needy citizens, given in cash and materials, which it plans to distribute to drought victims.

Senegal, facing a shortage of 830,000 tons of food this year, has already sunk 540 wells in the past two years, and windbreaks are planned to help stop the desert from creeping southward and the soil from becoming alkaline. Cape Verde has sent 32,000 drought victims to the countryside to assist in building roads and dams, to plant trees and to work on other agricultural projects aimed at reviving the nation's food production.

Starvation threatens more than 20 per cent of the population of Ethiopia, in eastern Africa. The government has allocated US\$

million for relief work, to be conducted under the supervision of a national council set up last March.

The Tanzanian Government has encouraged peasants to switch from growing rice to drought-resistant crops, while the Kenyan Government has postponed the ruling party's local elections in order to concentrate on relief work.

Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and other southern African countries have also made serious efforts to deal with the drought. They have either cancelled farmers' debts to the state or offered them interest-free loans to encourage more cereal production.

Other affected countries — Niger, Togo, Burundi, Congo, Malawi, Cameroon and Uganda — have also adopted measures suitable to their local conditions, trying hard to enhance the farmers' enthusiasm. They have made great efforts to develop irrigation projects, supply free fertilizer, subsidize the purchase of insecticides and seeds, raise the prices of agricultural products, and develop scientific research and personnel training.

In the struggle against the current drought, African countries have also supported each other. Zimbabwe, itself seriously affected by the drought, has supplied neighbouring Mozambique with 25,000 tons of food, while Liberia, the Ivory Coast, Algeria, Uganda and Congo have all offered food to the affected countries. With the drought not yet over, African countries need to continue their fight, with assistance from the international community.

United States Prepares for "Star Wars"

by ZHUANG QUBING

The US-Soviet arms race has escalated to new heights as the two superpowers have begun to battle for supremacy in space. This article focuses on the US policy decision to expand the so-called "Star Wars" technology and discusses the reasons for the US move and its impact both inside and outside the US. — Ed.

BOTH the United States and the Soviet Union are doing everything possible to build up their strategic space systems. And while this new chapter in the arms race unfolds, the two superpowers have yet to hold a single negotiation session on limiting their "Star Wars" arsenals. Instead, the threat of a space war looms so large that it has become a matter of concern for the whole world.

Today's space arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union has shifted its emphasis from military satellites to developing space weapons. To date, the superpowers have launched a combined total of 3,000 satellites, most of them for military purposes. But neither side is satisfied with just satellites, so they are going out to test and manufacture space weapons. They have two goals: (1) to destroy the rival's military satellite systems and knock out its command, control and communication capabilities; and (2) to eliminate the strategic missiles of the other side so as to safeguard against a sneak nuclear attack while being able to strike back with devastating nuclear retaliation.

Presently the US-Soviet space arms race is progressing mainly in four fields: satellite killers, directed

energy (laser, particle beams, etc.) weapons, permanent space stations and space shuttles.

The Soviets have already deployed land-based anti-satellite weapons, while the United States has begun to test anti-satellite missiles launched from high-flying jet fighters. Both types of weapons can destroy only low-altitude satellites. But the anti-satellite directed energy weapons, such as lasers, are the key arms in the "Star Wars" space race.

Reagan's "Star Wars" Strategy

US President Ronald Reagan's March 23, 1983 televised address, which came to be called his "Star Wars" speech, outlined the US strategy on space warfare. Reagan's "Star Wars" plan includes:

(1) Establishing a space war strategy to replace the nuclear retaliation strategy that has been the US strategy for years. The space war arsenal would include an anti-ballistic-missile defence system capable of knocking down Soviet missiles before they reach US territory

(2) Continuing the "deterrent strategy" by new means with a new type of military forces.

(3) Acquiring the technology for the space strategy over several decades due to the herculean tasks involved.

(4) Strengthening the US strategic nuclear forces and conventional forces alongside the space weaponry, and holding negotiations from a reinforced "position of strength" with the Soviet Union.

(5) Continuing to guard US allies' territories to prevent sneak attacks by Soviet missiles.

(6) Opposing any US-Soviet nuclear freeze at present levels.

The anti-ballistic-missile defence system and anti-satellite arms are the key components of the US space war strategy. The United States wants to set up several layers of defence against Soviet inter-continental missiles. The first layer is designed to knock down the Soviet missiles with space-launched laser or particle-beam devices before they launch their multiple warheads. The second layer of space laser or other devices is meant to intercept the warheads that escape the first layer. The third layer of laser weapons and anti-missile arms would be launched from earth to knock out the surviving missiles a few seconds before they reach their targets. US experts calculate that the Soviet inter-continental missiles could reach the United States within 30 minutes. The US would hope to destroy Soviet carrier rockets two to five minutes after they are launched. Otherwise, they would be hard to detect and destroy once they reach the outer atmosphere where they can quickly launch 10 or more multiple warheads. The United States is now designing a defence project to cope with a simultaneous attack of 1,000 missiles.

US newspapers reported that a 1982 secret government document — the 1984-88 "Five-Year Defense Guidance" — called for the military to develop an ability to "wage war effectively" in the space. In September 1982, the Space Command was founded. And three days after he made his "Star Wars" speech, Reagan issued an order to start further study on the "Star Wars" programme. In October 1983, a senior inter-agency group, which was directed by Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger and Presidential National Security Advisor William Clark,

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reported to Reagan that the programme is feasible and recommended an appropriation figure. Last January, Reagan announced that he would pursue the "Star Wars" programme.

During Reagan's tenure, spending on military ventures in space has far outpaced spending on non-military space projects. The 1984 military space budget is expected to reach US\$ 11.4 billion. The figure, it is estimated, will grow larger in the future. To test and establish an anti-missile defence system will cost at least US\$200-300 billion. The Reagan administration hopes to allocate US\$26 billion for the anti-missile system by the end of the 1980s, and plans to spend US\$1.8 billion for fiscal 1985.

Domestic Opposition

Over the past two years, as the space war plan has been proposed, a lively debate about its feasibility has ensued in the US. Opponents have included politicians, retired generals, scholars and the press. The arguments have focused not only on the complex military techniques, but on the military, political and economic consequences of the plan. The disagreements are sharp, and opposition to Reagan's programme is strong.

A group of scientists, including former President Jimmy Carter's science advisor and several Nobel Prize winners, said in a research report that developing a space-based anti-missile defence system would politically and strategically run a risk as great as its technical difficulties. Defence experts from the Brookings Institution and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology also voiced opposition to the plan. They argued that an overall anti-missile defence system could bring death to tens of millions of people unless it is 100 per cent effective. And, in view of the present level of technology, they said it is absolutely im-

possible to guarantee that the system won't fail. They also argued that the costly system would be useless against cruise missiles and other low-altitude weapons, and that the Soviet Union could take effective countermeasures. Last June former President Carter and 42 other former political and military figures (Dean Rusk, Cyrus Vance, Robert McNamara, Maxwell Taylor, Averell Harriman and others) formed an organization to oppose development of an anti-missile system. They declared that the US endeavour would bring about a dangerous new phase of the nuclear arms race, with the result that both the US and the Soviets would continue to place their emphasis on nuclear war. In July 1983, some 100 Congressmen and 40 defence experts called on President Reagan to hold talks with the Soviets on space weapons, and urged both sides to stop space weapon testing during the talks.

Fears about nuclear war in the United States are still growing, but they have not been strong enough to check the Reagan administration's plan. Still, the defence establishment faces herculean technical difficulties in building a space-based strategic defence system. American Deputy Defence Secretary Richard DeLauer has said that there are eight technical breakthroughs that need to be achieved, and each one will demand efforts on the scale of the massive Manhattan Project that developed the atom bomb during World War II. George Keyworth, a presidential technology advisor who is optimistic about space weapons, had to admit that the technical problems are so great that the decisions on whether to actually build the system and how it will be developed won't be made until the 1990s.

Reagan's Arguments

Why does the Reagan administration insist on space

weapons in the face of technical difficulties, high expenses and strong opposition? There may be many reasons, but the basic one is the United States wants to pursue military supremacy over the Soviet Union.

In recent years, the Reagan administration has managed to keep the US on a par with the Soviet Union in military capabilities. But it still lags behind in some nuclear offensive weapons, such as land-based missiles, and in strategic defence, such as civil and air defence. In addition, the Soviet Union is making strategic missiles at a pace faster than the United States and is constantly strengthening its conventional forces. What's more, the Soviet Union now has redoubled efforts to develop its own space weapons. In order to turn the tide, the US wants to take a shortcut, developing space weapons in a big way. Strategically, it has to adopt a new scheme of developing space weapons that have a "first strike" capability to replace the current "mutually assured destruction" strategy and the "countervailing" strategy based on second-strike capability. With an anti-missile defence system as its shield and the offensive nuclear weapons as its sword, the United States seeks to have a real military edge over the Soviet Union. The Reagan administration has turned to outer space to seek that edge.

In pushing its new strategy, the US has another axe to grind. It wants to achieve its political goals by taking advantage of Soviet economic difficulties. Washington believes that a space weapons race will force the Soviets to spend so much on weaponry that its modernization of strategic nuclear weapons will be upset and its economy will be left in shambles. If the Soviet Union is pressed economically, it might then make concessions to the US politically, or restrain its military actions. As a result, the United States will

surely have an upper hand in the space weapons race because of its economic and technological superiority.

Extreme conservative forces in the US and the military-industrial interest groups back the Reagan administration's military space plan. This is particularly the case in the "Sun Belt" of the US West and Southwest, where the electronics, aviation, space and other new industries are well developed.

Some observers also believe that the United States must stimulate its economy by developing new industries such as the space industry, because the decline of old basic industries is inevitable. Others hold that the military space plan is an important means to boost the space industry as a whole, saying that the Western economy will be revitalized again by the "Star Wars" projects. Keyworth estimated that US\$800 billion will be spent on developing the space-based anti-missile defence programme over the next 20 years. Last July Reagan announced policies that encourage investment by private businesses in the space industry.

Influence

The US endeavour to develop a strategic space system will have a profound impact both inside and outside the United States. At present, the following aspects deserve attention:

(1) The equilibrium of military power will become increasingly unstable. The Reagan administration has discarded the "mutually assured destruction" strategy, which sought a balance of military power that would give neither the United States nor the Soviet Union reason to use nuclear arms. To gain the upper hand, the US has adopted the "Star Wars" strategy. This strategy, which stresses both offence and defence, will put the US in a position to develop a first-strike capability. On the one hand, the

"Star Wars" strategy is aimed at crippling the Soviet strategic nuclear forces. On the other hand, the US will continue to produce sophisticated nuclear weapons while developing space weapons of various kinds. Therefore, the new strategy, which combines improved nuclear defence with improved nuclear offence, is an escalation of the former nuclear strategy. The countermeasures adopted by the United States and the Soviet Union will inevitably upset the present equilibrium of their military power.

Furthermore, the new US nuclear strategy will considerably complicate future wars by involving sea, land and air conflict, as well as space war. The ability of space weapons to hit targets on the earth will obscure the distinction between space war and war on the Earth.

(2) The arms race will be further intensified. With the race to develop space weapons, the United States and the Soviet Union will continue to be locked in a cut-throat competition for military supremacy. The US has estimated that the Soviets, by the early 1990s, may launch satellites armed with laser weapons and test missile-killing satellites. It is likely that the US will take action based on this estimate. Washington thinks that its superior technology and economy will help it prevail over its rival, forcing Moscow to give up its plan. But this is only Washington's wishful thinking. More likely, both superpowers will find ways to develop arms and neither will win clear superiority.

(3) Arms talks will be affected. The existing treaties on outer space have many loopholes and say little to provide any legal basis for the prohibition of the militarization of outer space. The treaties can even be exploited by the United States and the Soviet Union to serve their own purposes.

The two countries have held no talks as yet on limiting space weaponry. For fear that the United States may gain superiority in space, the Soviet Union proposed to prohibit testing and deployment of all kinds of space weapons. But at the same time, the Soviets did not want their land-based anti-satellite weapons to be affected. As for the United States, many people in the military insist on delaying negotiations until superiority over the Soviets is achieved. Others have suggested that talks be held only on prohibiting anti-satellite weapons that can destroy satellites in deep outer space. That's because most US satellites, unlike those of the Soviet Union, are in deep outer space. Even if such an agreement could be reached, it would exist for only a short time before becoming meaningless. Once there are new breakthroughs in the directed energy weapon techniques, the outer space satellites may be easier to destroy than intercontinental missiles. What's more, the space weapon negotiations are connected with other disarmament talks, and a deadlock in these talks would further strain US-Soviet relations.

(4) US allies will have more to fear. If the Soviet Union establishes a space-based anti-missile defence system, West European nuclear weapons will become useless and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) strategy, which calls for using nuclear weapons when necessary, will be ineffective. The result will be an increased Soviet military threat. If both the United States and the Soviet Union develop such space defence systems, they would be protected while Western Europe could become a victim of nuclear war. Even if the US anti-missile system is very effective, Western Europe will not be safe from attack, for it has little defence against low-flying nuclear missiles. Western Europeans fear that in the

future they will not only find Soviet political tricks difficult to cope with, but will also have to bow to the United States' will. And there's even the possibility that Western Europe could be drawn into the space weapons competition.

(5) The United States will be under the heavy burden of increased military spending. Although huge military expenditures may boost the economy in some areas of the United States, such spending is harmful to the economy as a whole. The US defence industry has about one-fourth of the country's scientists and engineers, while civilian industries lack expertise. Since the proportion of military spending in the gross national product is very high, civilian industries do not receive enough investment and grow at a slow pace. As a result, the competitive power of their products is serious-

ly weakened on the international market. According to US defence experts, the US would have to double its military spending to finance the space-based anti-missile system and other related military efforts.

It's quite clear that the plan to establish a strategic nuclear weapon system in space is a dangerous one. Its main consequence will be even more tense US-Soviet relations, which will increase the danger of world war and threaten world peace. The development of space weapons would enhance the degree of accuracy of both nuclear and non-nuclear weapons, and would expand warfare in new directions. Some believe that should a war between the United States and the Soviet Union ever break out, it would start with an attack on the enemy's satellites.

The rapid development of space technology is a great achievement

of modern science. It can and should contribute to world peace and human progress. People all over the world demand that the United States and the Soviet Union stop the space arms race. In order to safeguard world peace, it is imperative to prohibit the development, testing, production and deployment of space weapons and to ultimately destroy all of them. Presently, the United States does not want to give in, and the Soviet Union is not sincere when it makes disarmament proposals. It is hoped that the two countries negotiate, come to really effective agreements, and cease such dangerous actions before an overall space weapon system is established. Stopping the militarization of space is in the best interests of the people of the United States, the Soviet Union and the rest of the world. □

Writers Face Reality Through Literature

The relationship between literature and reality is one of the fundamental issues facing any writer. The following article, by a literary theoretician, deals with the subject according to the principles of writing.
—Ed.

by JIANG ZENGPEI

LIVING the life they portray is a constantly discussed topic among China's writers and artists. But because the nature of reality is ever-changing, the topic never grows stale. At present, quite a number of literary works suffer from a form of anemia—they lack any basis in real life. But theoretically, there is a tendency to neglect reality. It is therefore useful to discuss this topic again.

Sources of Creativity

Living the life is a basic law of literature, because writing and the arts are reflections of real life. All accomplished writers throughout history have lived very full

lives, such as Cao Xueqin (?-1763) in China, Honore Balzac (1799-1850) in France and Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910) in Russia. Their chronological narratives and mirror-like images of their times can be ascribed to their intimate knowledge of the life their characters lived.

Only life inspires writers to set their pens to paper. It is the source and the fuel of good writing. The best way to understand life is to live it. Only in this way can writers straighten out their subjective biases, as Balzac and Tolstoy demonstrated. A rich life can mould a writer's temperament and sharpen his insight.

Familiar with everyday life, China's Zhao Shuli (1906-70), call-

ed the thumb of the rustic school, defied the fashions of the 1950s and did not write about the ostentatious great leap forward. Instead, he portrayed the so-called "middle" characters — people who were neither absolutely good nor absolutely bad.

As another writer about peasants, Liu Qing (1916-78), put it, "Life nurtures writers. It remoulds them and betters them."

The skills and forms of writing are also inseparable from life. This is because form must go with content. Skills are also decided upon by contents, which take shape according to the models of real life. The originality and creativity of skills and forms are found in life itself. Hegel said, "The medium for representing images is but the one through which the artist feels and perceives the image."

According to Zhang Xianliang,



Poet Ai Wu (right) chatting with an oil extraction worker.

a rising young writer, when he encounters unknown aspects of life, he must turn to his skills to help make up for the gaps. But when he writes about a life he knows intimately, he is overwhelmed by many vivid images. He relives the scenes through his senses of sight, hearing, smell and touch. On these occasions, he does not have to consider his skills, or rather, he has no time to do so. The results prove that Zhang's writing, based on his own personal experience, is the most expressive.

However, this does not mean the study of artistic skills is simply nonsense. As early as 1942, Mao Zedong had written in his well-known *Talk at the Yanan Forum on Literature and Art*. "It makes a difference whether or not we have such examples (things to in-

herit and benefit from past literary works), the difference between crudeness and refinement, between roughness and polish, between a low and high level, and between slower and faster work." But the study of artistic skills must be tied in with an understanding of reality. It is not desirable to court the superficial by deserting the essential or to copy Western skills blindly regardless of their contents — techniques popular among certain writers today.

Life exerts a great influence upon literature through various channels. The link between life and creativity is essential. Without it, literature and the arts would become pointless and inanimate.

During war years in China, writers could produce fine works only

by joining in the struggle. The same is true for today's writers, during the current economic construction drive. Furthermore, since the new society is more sophisticated and ever-changing, writers should be conscientious to marry themselves to the time and the people. As the Chinese saying goes: "Those who go deep catch the dragon, while those who stay in the shallow catch only fish and shrimp." This truth is independent of outside changes of circumstances.

Addressing the fourth national conference of writers and artists in 1979, Party leader Deng Xiaoping said the only way socialist literature and the arts can prosper is when writers and artists conscientiously draw subject matter, themes, plots, language, lyrics and images from the people, feeding on their spirit and actions.

Keeping Up With Life

Because literature is a reflection of life, writers must transcribe what they know well. In the past, some leaders among Chinese writers and artists advocated highlighting a main theme or illustrating government policies. This method met with setbacks and frustrations.

Recently, creative guidance was set right again, encouraging more works. Writers began to jot down first-hand, memorable anecdotes, producing quite a few good pieces. Obviously, the objective truth of creativity cannot be ignored.

However, writers must not be completely restrained by the objective law. As soon as they have realized the importance of life, they should lose no time in broadening what they know and understanding what is worth knowing better. If a person rests content with writing only what he knows through chance encounters, he is not observing the objective law, but is enslaved by it.

Nowadays the prevailing notion is that one should draw water from one's own well. This is not altogether incorrect. But favouring one's own well while skipping over the others, heeding only one's own life while slighting the lives of the people, can only be the undoing of a writer. Socialist literature and art should positively represent the lives and desires of the people, mirroring the changes of the time.

Although it is true that we are surrounded by life everywhere, its constituent elements are different. It is not easy for socialist writers to capture life in their works. They must plunge into the swift stream of their country's massive construction drive.

Here we are faced with subjective initiative in the face of objective laws. It is not only a matter of how to capitalize on these laws, but also of how to do so correctly. Those writers who view literature and art as revolutionary works have been doing their best to understand the people. Writer Ding Ling (1904-), for example, became famous by voicing the complaints of the women petty bourgeoisie in the late 1920s. But she did not stop there. Instead, according to the trends of the time and of the people, she took pains to understand the working people. As a result, her 1930s novel *Water* and others speak up for the oppressed and the exploited. In the 1940s, following Mao Zedong's instructions to wholeheartedly and unconditionally live among the people, Ding Ling took part in the agrarian reform. She based her prize-winning novel, *The Sun Over the Sanggan River*, on her experiences.

Most prominent writers keep pace with the development of society, in order to broaden their literary horizons. Lao She (1899-1966) had all of old Beijing at his fingertips. It's no wonder his novel *Rickshaw Boy* was a success. After liberation Lao She enthusiastically

familiarized himself with the new characters and situation in his city, and wrote the popular *Dragon Beard Ditch* and others of his best works. He said, "To repeat the stereotyped topics, even if somewhat instructive, is not as important as portraying current characters and events. Today is closer to tomorrow than yesterday is."

Some writers were forced to mix with the masses during the "cultural revolution." They shared their hardships and were polished by the people. So when they began to write again, it was only natural that they produced influential works. But in the past few years, some writers were severing their ties with the people. They soon ran out of material to write about, and had nothing new to offer the people. Still others went so far as to imitate, copy or even plagiarize past or foreign

works. Writers must continuously keep in touch with the people, be more self-conscious and develop their subjective initiatives.

Going Beyond Life

Writers should not only live the life around them, but also try to understand it, refine it and represent it. This is because life is the source of literature and the arts. Only when charged with the writers' thoughts, emotions, imagination and illusions which are represented in a concentrated and vivid form can life become art. Real life is then transformed by the creative process. It becomes typical, ideal, pertinent and compelling — beyond real life. It is thus more universal. It is in this sense that literature and art are reflections of life. Objective reality must be combined with subjective impressions. But just as the subjec-

Chen Bochui (left) with some young readers.





Jiao Zuroo (middle) at a construction site.

live initiative can play its role only when objectivity is respected, subjective factors reflected in literary works are only secondary when compared with objective reality. The two can be neither equated nor reversed.

One opinion holds that since literature and art are reflections of life, they are also reflections of ideology. Needless to say, literature and art must deal with subjective ideology, but this ideology is only the reflection of real life. Mao Zedong pointed out that life is the one and only source of artistic creativity. Writers cannot afford to harbour any doubts or disbelief of this conclusion. Otherwise, they are tempted by idealism.

Not long ago, some people advocated that writers should disdain to describe objective reality beyond their own selves and should regard writing as purely one's subjective experience. This is an extreme expression of their view.

Objection to self-expression does not rule out expressing the self in literature. Because works are penned by writers who rearrange life according to their aesthetic ideology, it follows that the results bear the mark of the writers' personalities. Many excellent works

are clearly branded with the mark of their creators. The only problem comes when writers refuse to recognize that the self is inseparable from the people. Writers should link themselves with society. Gorky said, "Never concentrate oneself on one's own self; it is the entire world that should be concentrated on you."

Self-expression is wrong when it is impatient only to express the writers' selves in isolation, separate from the entire world. Feelings and thoughts thus expressed are more often than not one-sided, superficial and unwholesome. They are out of step with the current trends and the feelings of the people.

In 1826 Goethe criticized a German improvisational singer for his obsession with expressing himself. Goethe said that one was not much of a poet if he could only express his own subjective moods. Once he kept abreast of the development of the entire world and was able to express it, he became a real poet. Thereafter he would have an inexhaustible supply of material upon which to base his poems. He found the subjective poets soon ran out of new ideas and had to resort to cliches.

That explains why socialist literature opposes ignoring reality to face one's innermost world. It's common sense that the inner world is contained by the outer world. Contemporary master Ba Jin (1904-) writes with great enthusiasm. His straightforwardness has always captivated his readers. Admittedly, his works are quite subjective. But, this is the result of his embracing reality.

Recalling the mood in which he wrote his stories about the old society, Ba Jin said that reality was projected in his mind's eye. The darkness gradually materialized into many miserable scenes which tortured him. His heart beat fast and he could not stop his pen. He discovered he was inspired by life; he felt intoxicated and threw himself into a maddening process of creation. If not for the people, his link with life, Ba Jin's pen would have dried out long ago.

* * *

The principle of living the life is a general law of artistic creation. But in the past, formalism had dominated in practice. For example, going into the midst of the workers, peasants and soldiers was considered important, while going deep among the intellectuals was not. Writers and artists were indiscriminately forced to settle down in the countryside or in factories.

Drawing on these lessons, writers must familiarize themselves with a certain aspect of life, according to their needs. But they should not turn their backs on other facets of life. Permanently settling in another area or unit, in-service settlement, short-term field enquiries, intermittent investigations or a mixture of these are all acceptable ways to go deep into the realities of life. Writers should choose the most suitable way, in accordance with their age, health, experience and the themes they have in mind. □

Is It a Retreat to Capitalism?

by LU YUN
Our Correspondent

FOllowing the implementation of the household responsibility system, individual households have become the working units in farming. Many observers have likened this to the farmers or plantation owners in capitalist countries. Others have asserted that the new system in China's rural areas is a capitalist one. But are they correct? Let's hear what the peasants have to say about it.

Peasants' Views

Wu Fengqi, a peasant in Anhui Province, said, "My family gathered 25 tons of grain and sold 19.5 tons of it to the state last year. Some friends joked that I would become a landlord. I replied, 'How can I become a landlord? I have no farmland. The land I till is owned by the collective!'"

What he said is right. Under the household responsibility system, the land is still owned by the collective. Peasant households have the right to use the farmland for a contracted period, but the land cannot be let, bought or sold by the peasants.

In Wu's opinion, collective ownership of the land is highly significant. He noted, "The rich households cannot buy land even if they become richer. Neither can they exploit others by owning farmland. The poor households cannot sell their farmland, even if they become poorer. They may meet with natural disasters this year, but they will still reap a good harvest next year as long as they have the land to till. The wide gap between the rich and poor can be avoided."

In this way, Wu has drawn a clear distinction between the principles of the responsibility system and those of private ownership in farming. This conforms to the reality in China's rural areas.

China's commodity economy is not developed in the rural areas, and the land is the main source of income for the peasants. It is an important means of production and social insurance in some way.

Chinese peasants have farmed in household groups for thousands of years. The current responsibility system has incorporated these household management groups into the collective economy. Peasant households which have contracted the farmland of the collective work under a unified plan and obey the collective economic organizations. They accept the guidance of the state plan. They must fulfil production quotas stipulated in their contracts, sell a certain amount of their products to the state and

contribute a portion of their produce to the collective.

Contracting households are therefore a component part of the collective economy. The responsibility system has merely gotten rid of the defects in the management and operations of the people's communes. Their socialist nature remains unchanged because the ownership of the farmland remains unchanged.

Realizing the State Plan

Since 1953 the Chinese Government, the biggest buyer of China's farm produce, has maintained a monopoly of the purchase and marketing of grain. Its aim was to stabilize prices. When farm produce was in short supply, state monopoly put an end to speculation, hoarding and cornering the market. This ensures the grain supplies for urban residents.

In recent years the state has

Peasants in Shahe County, Hebei Province, sell grain to the state.



been slowly raising the price it pays for farm produce, so that the peasants can benefit more from their labour. The peasants, in turn, are required to sell about 10 per cent of their contracted output to the state at a fixed price. They can get higher prices selling the rest to the state, and after this, they can sell their surplus at fairs, where prices can be negotiated with the buyers.

Peasants are required to sell other agricultural and sideline products, such as oil-bearing crops and pigs, to the state, according to their contracted quotas. They also must pay an agricultural tax. These taxes and quotas are the same as they were before the responsibility system was introduced. The only difference is that now peasants hand them over directly to the state, where formerly they paid the production team, who then paid the state.

The state has a mandatory plan for the amount of the grain the peasants are required to sell as state quota. But it is up to the peasants to decide on what way to grow this grain. The govern-

ment only plans the important aspects or sets the principles for local planning.

For example, the state suggested that 70 to 75 per cent of China's farmland be sown to grains, with the rest sown to cash crops. This plan was transmitted to the lower governments. Local authorities acted on fulfilling the planned targets according to local conditions. But the plan was not enforced through intervention. Rather by signing purchasing, supply, and marketing contracts (for instance, if peasants fulfil their grain quotas, the state will supply a certain amount of quality chemical fertilizer and fodder), production is effectively influenced.

It seems a complicated matter, but a good look at the rural areas shows the state plan has been implemented satisfactorily. This success is attributed to the experience accumulated over many years, the socialist awareness of the peasants, the exemplary role of local Party members and the provisions of the contracts.

The increase or decrease in production of a certain farm product

is also regulated according to the state plan by economic means, such as pricing, taxes, loans and the supply of materials.

The Peasant and the Collective

The roles of the peasant and the collective have changed dramatically under the responsibility system. In the past power was over-concentrated in the hands of the collective, which guided the peasants' economic activities by administrative means. To a great extent, the collective decided the ultimate economic gains and losses of the peasants.

Now the peasants' relationship to the collective is defined by a contract, and they make their own decisions concerning production and operations. Their main responsibility to the collective is to fulfil their contracts. They may do this as they see fit. The peasants have thought of many ways to expand production and increase their incomes, injecting new life into the rural economy.

The unified operations of the collective still play a regulating role. The collective works out plans for land use and crop rotations.

Farming was carried out collectively in the past. Cadres were busy organizing production and assigning peasants to grow and gather crops. The labourers could only do what they were told. Their enthusiasm waned.

But the peasants can now arrange their own work. Their time is more flexible, and they are thus able to diversify.

However, all this decentralization does not mean that each peasant works entirely on his own. They still find it more convenient for the collective to arrange certain services which they are willing to pay for. For instance, the collective provides improved seeds, chemical fertilizers and

Su Jinglong, a former resident of Yingkou city in Liaoning Province, contracted for a rural pig farm. He eliminated losses and increased profits in two years.



tractor-ploughing for the peasants. Some people have been chosen to irrigate and drain water. Others teach new techniques and offer guidance on how to prevent plant diseases and insect pests. These services have gradually been expanded as the economy diversifies.

The collective had the exclusive power to deal with what peasants produced in the past. They were given to the peasants only after various deductions had been taken out by the collective. The peasants had to accept both reasonable and unreasonable deductions for losses, waste, overspending and arbitrary expenses.

Now the peasants have the right to control their own products.

The functions of the collective have been changed. They govern public accumulation, organize some capital construction projects, run town and township enterprises and set up organizations to serve the production needs of the peasants. Some collectives have also drawn some profits from the town and township enterprises to support the peasants who are farming.

The collective also tries to solve the problems which crop up in implementing the contract system. For instance, if the great majority of commune members want to readjust the way contracted farmland has been divided, then the collective can either make the changes or resolve the problem through consultations among the commune members themselves.

Development of Collective Projects

Some people are concerned that the household contract system will handicap the growth of collective projects. But practice has proved that the responsibility system can not only increase the peasants' income and enable some peasants to get rich first, but can also spur the



Peasants in Fengyang County widen the road.

economic and cultural projects of the collective to develop much faster than at any time in the past.

In Fengyang County, hundreds of peasants are busy widening the main road. The county Party secretary Wang Yuxin told me, "Before the responsibility system was implemented, Fengyang had 925 kilometres of highways. Since then, the peasants have raised 1.05 million yuan to build another 400 kilometres of roads. Now every village is accessible by car." The road builders said that repairing the road during the slack farming season benefits everyone. They donated their labour willingly.

Wang also said, "There have been good harvests for several consecutive years, and the people are enthusiastic about raising funds for local economic and cultural projects. The state, collective and peasants have pooled their efforts to work enormous changes in Fengyang County."

The road repairs were just one of the many projects in Fengyang. The area of land which is irrigated has been expanded from 34,000 hectares to 55,000 hectares since the responsibility system was introduced. Local peasants paid for 62.5 per cent of the investment themselves.

Before 1978, the county had 492 kilometres of high and low voltage lines, which were built entirely with state investment. Since then, peasants raised 80 per cent of the 10.36 million yuan used to string another 1,022 kilometres of power lines.

About 2,800 brick buildings with tile roofs have been built for primary and middle schools, more than double the original figure. The state allocated one million yuan, and another 1.8 million yuan was contributed by the peasants.

Recognizing that scientific growing techniques can increase their harvests and their incomes, peasants have enthusiastically supported organizations which spread agricultural science. The county has trained 200 peasant technicians and 42,000 technical assistants and invested 600,000 yuan to set up two agricultural science schools. Five spare-time vocational schools are run by various districts and townships.

Before 1979 Fengyang had just three cinemas and theatres. Now there are 32 plus 76 mobile film projection teams. The peasants have also set up 22 cultural centres, 26 small libraries and 20 amateur dramatic troupes. □

Young Pioneers Celebrate 35th Birthday

Over the past five years, the Young Pioneers has grown from 70 million to 130 million members. Four out of every five children in the eligible age group are members.

by ZHAO WURONG

CHINA'S Young Pioneers, an organization which has played an important role in uniting and teaching Chinese children, celebrated its 35th anniversary Oct. 13.

Soon after the founding of the Chinese Communist Party some 60 years ago, the Chinese children began to set up their own organizations.

During the 1924-27 Northern Expedition against feudal warlords, the children formed the Labour Scouts. As the Agrarian Revolutionary War progressed from 1927 to 1936, the Children's Corps was set up in Communist-controlled areas. And after New China

was founded in 1949, a national organization — the Chinese Children Detachment — was established. It was later renamed the Chinese Young Pioneers.

Children between ages of 7 and 14 who want to join the Young Pioneers apply to the grass-roots branches. Most applicants, if they are willing to observe the Young Pioneers constitution and work hard in school, are accepted.

The organization received the name Young Pioneers with the aim of encouraging children to learn from the older generation of revolutionaries and to cherish lofty ideals. Their motto is: "Get ready and fight for the cause of communism!" The red scarves members

wear around their necks symbolize a corner of the Chinese flag. The Young Pioneers' salute — an open-handed five-finger salute — symbolizes that members should place the people's interest above everything else. The organization's red banner has a single star symbolizing the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and a torch symbolizing a bright future.

Over the past five years, the Young Pioneers has grown from 70 million to 130 million members. Four out of every five children in the eligible age group are now members. The Young Pioneers sets up a contingent in the primary school (or the production brigade), which is divided into squadrons and further into teams. Leaders at these three levels are elected by the children.

Activities

Young Pioneers take on a variety of tasks and activities. During the nation's First Five-Year Plan period, which began in 1953, Young Pioneers conducted what was called "the children's five-year plan." They collected metal for recycling and contributed their pocket money to the peasants to buy tractors. They planted trees and oil-bearing crops. Their motto was, "Our parents have their big five-year plan, so we children have a small five-year plan of our own. We want to contribute our part to socialism." Young Pioneers also launched hygiene campaigns, popularized *putonghua* (common speech) and organized afforestation corps, collecting tree seeds and building tree nurseries. During

Shen Xiaoshi, a retired officer of the Wuhan army unit, tells Young Pioneers stories about heroes.





Left: Pupils of the Beijing No. 2 Experimental Primary School displaying their handicrafts.

Right: Wang Jiaying, a Shanghai Young Pioneer, won the Silver Elephant Trophy as the finest actress at the Third International Youth Film Festival.



that period in the 1950s, the 53,000 Young Pioneers in the Poyang Lake area of Jiangxi Province afforested 205 hills and planted trees covering another 666 hectares, which they proudly named "The Children's Forest." Young Pioneers in Hanzhou's Lingyin Primary School gathered more than 14,000 kg of tree seeds and mailed them to other parts of the country.

In 1963 Chairman Mao Zedong issued a call for people to learn from Comrade Lei Feng. Lei Feng was an ordinary soldier of the People's Liberation Army, who died at his post. Lei Feng was held up as a model citizen who was selfless in his desire to help others. During the drive to learn from Uncle Lei Feng, Young Pioneers listened to stories about Lei Feng, visited Lei Feng exhibits and talked or corresponded with soldiers in the squad where Lei Feng had served. Like Lei Feng, Young Pioneers did many good deeds for the people.

Young Pioneers activities were

brought to a standstill during the 10 chaotic years of the "cultural revolution" from 1966 to 1976. The organization regained its previous vigour after 1978.

To cultivate patriotism, some of Beijing's Young Pioneers were taken to visit the Great Wall. The leaders told them that the incredible wall is the longest in the world and the only man-made structure visible from the moon. Standing atop the centuries-old Great Wall, they felt proud of their motherland.

To help Young Pioneers develop a love for the sciences, the No. 3 Primary School in the Hongkou District of Shanghai organized an activity called "Building a Scientific Country." The Young Pioneers headquarters asked each squadron to build its concept of a scientific city. The children responded with many designs: a space city, a designing city, a biological city, an aeronautical city, a marine city, a mathematical city and an astronomical city. Young Pioneer squadrons in the school also sponsored

a reading activity called "a visit to the hometown of scientists." Children of "the astronomical city" visited ancient Chinese astronomer Zhang Heng by reading books about him. Those of "the mathematical city" read about Chinese mathematician Hua Luogeng; "the designing city" students studied Italian artist and designer Leonardo da Vinci; and "the biological city" students focused on Charles Darwin. Through the activity, children read more scientific books and became more intelligent and ambitious.

Young Pioneers activities are often educational, but they can also be practical and humorous. The group organizes camping trips in both the winter and the summer that have opened Young Pioneers' eyes to the beauty of nature and have made the children healthier, both physically and morally.

Such activities inspire children and sometimes can even have a great impact on their career choice. Many of the nation's top experts,

scientists and artists were Young Pioneers as children.

Summer Camping

Summer camping offers children a good opportunity to acquaint themselves with their fellow students and nature. Everything on the camping trip is fresh and wonderful to them.

A variety of camp outings focus on science and technology, geology, biology, art and literature, sports and the military. There are even seashore camps.

Camps range from single-day trips to 7-10 day outings of 200

or more children. It doesn't matter whether the camp is a major week-long affair or a single afternoon. The children can be equally impressed by both.

During their camp outings, children visit famous sites of the Chinese revolution, other places of historic interest and scenic spots. They tour buildings and projects which demonstrate the achievements of socialist construction. They can meet and talk with veteran Red Army soldiers, cadres, heroes and model workers. And campers sometimes have get-togethers with nearby People's Liberation Army units. They also investigate the history and flora and

fauna of nearby areas. And, of course, a picnic is indispensable to a camp outing. Summer camps usually end with a bonfire party. Public figures often join the Young Pioneers as the campers sing and dance by the fire.

Because Chinese society pays attention to education and supports the Young Pioneer camps, summer camping has become popular throughout the country. Last year 90 per cent of the Young Pioneers in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, went to camps. The city of Anyang, Henan Province, had 128 camp outings organized by its schools, and 700 more organized by Young Pioneer squadrons. □

Newspaper Keeps Kids Informed, Entertained

by JIANG DAYA

IN its 33-year history, the weekly tabloid *Zhongguo Shaonian Bao* (Chinese Children's News) has attracted a readership unmatched by most of China's adult newspapers. Circulation has reached a peak of 11.4 million.

With clear writing and lively comics, the official publication of the Young Pioneers is an affable and helpful teacher for China's boys and girls.

Many grown-ups today clearly recall reading *Zhongguo Shaonian Bao* during their early school years. Many people in their 30s and 40s grew up reading stories about outstanding Young Pioneers in the newspaper. There were, for example, Liu Wenzhe and Zhang Caonian, who both died while fighting criminals attempting to steal collective property. And the paper told of the sisters Long Mei and Yu Rong, who laid down

their young lives while protecting their collective's large herd of sheep during a snowstorm. Today, these heroes and heroines are being revered and emulated by a younger generation.

Yang Le, an accomplished mathematician now in his 40s, regards the tabloid as his first teacher. "I was really inspired in my studies by the paper's stories about Chinese pilots helping the Koreans in the 1950s," said Yang. "At the time, I kind of recoiled from doing knotty geometry homework. Those heroes of the Chinese People's Volunteers fighting there reminded me that I should work really hard. And I did. I spent more time on geometry, and soon I was getting good grades in that subject."

Those feelings about *Zhongguo Shaonian Bao* are shared by Jiang Kun, now a virtuoso in cross-talking, China's premier form of stage comedy. "During my primary through junior middle school days," he recalled, "I never

missed one issue of the comic strip 'Xiao Hu Zi.'" It was Xiao Hu Zi, the hero in that strip, who taught Jiang and children of his day how to study and behave. "When riding buses, I'd give up my seat whenever an elderly person was standing by me, just the way Xiao Hu Zi would do. And I often helped the grandma next door fetch water," said Jiang.

Today, with the drive for modernization in full swing, the paper has devoted its efforts to encouraging youngsters to do their part in making China prosperous and strong. One report told of Shi Zhan, a country boy who became a teenage college student through diligent work. To make the story more understandable, the author likened the boy to the legendary Small Carp, a character known to every Chinese child for its dogged efforts to scale the high Dragon Gate standing in its way of advance. The 13-year-old Shi got little help from his nearly illiterate parents, yet by

studying hard he passed the college entrance exams with flying colours and enrolled in the mathematics department of China University of Science and Technology in 1980.

Many school children were touched by the story. A Hebei Province second-year primary school pupil, for example, wrote in a letter to the editorial board, "I also want to jump over the Dragon Gate like Brother Shi Zhan did." The pupil previously had not done well in his studies, as he wasted too much time. But inspired by the example of Shi Zhan, he mended his ways and became a top student.

Of China's some 100 newspapers and journals for youngsters, *Zhongguo Shaonian Bao* stands out as a unique paper. It devotes much of its coverage to the Chinese Young Pioneers.

Prior to 1979, only children who behaved themselves and did well in their studies were accepted in the Young Pioneers. But some wondered whether it was fair to reject the mischievous and those who weren't as bright. To seek an answer, the paper ran a survey under the headline, "Can Zhang Yong and Wang Hong Become Young Pioneers?" Zhang Yong was a naughty boy while Wang Hong did not do well in her studies. Young readers debated the matter heatedly. Even adults, mostly parents and teachers, added their opinion to the debate. Finally a consensus was reached: Both Zhang Yong and Wang Hong should be allowed to become Young Pioneers. The children felt that by allowing Zhang and Wang to join, they wouldn't feel left out and they would both make greater progress. As a result of the debate, many youngsters previously barred from the Young Pioneers are now

proudly wearing their red scarves alongside their schoolmates.

Last year *Zhongguo Shaonian Bao* organized a nationwide question-and-answer competition among Young Pioneer teams, with topics ranging from everyday life to science and technology. When the competition was completed, representatives of the 40 prize-winning teams were invited to take part in camp outings in Bei-

Many middle-aged people grew up reading "Chinese Children's News" stories about outstanding Young Pioneers. Today, the paper encourages youngsters to do their bit in the modernization drive.

jing. Entitled "The Happy Young Pioneers' Teams," the programme was designed to encourage youngsters across the nation to perform services for the public and to spur their interest in science and technology. School children responded enthusiastically to the competition, and many urban and rural areas, even those in remote border regions, sponsored their own competitions among the youngsters.

The newspaper keeps youngsters abreast of happenings at home and abroad, and works to foster positive attitudes towards school studies. Spinning interesting yarns, the paper guides the younger generation step by step into the wondrous world of the natural sciences. It also teaches them how to do laboratory experiments. Other features include short stories, fairy tales, contemporary poetry and compositions written by the Young Pioneers themselves.

The paper owes much of its wide popularity to four special columns. The comic strip "Xiao Hu Zi," mentioned earlier, has been in the paper for 26 years. Its title character is the role model that every child in China hopes to emulate. Warmhearted, the witty Xiao Hu Zi teaches the difference between good and bad behaviour, and his funny, yet enlightening personality proves to be a constant attraction for youngsters. Many readers check up on Xiao Hu Zi's activities the moment the tabloid arrives.

As the title suggests, "Xiao Ling Tong" (The Little Know-It-All) brings youngsters up to date on big events in China and abroad. Every story in this column is presented in language familiar to the children.

"Dong Nao Jin Ye Ye" (The Grandpa Who Likes to Think) satisfies the youngsters' curiosity about nature. The column never fails to answer reader's questions, ranging from the childish to the seemingly unanswerable. True, there is nothing the Grandpa does not know.

"Zhi Xin Jie Jie" (The Sister Who Knows What's on Your Mind) is portrayed as a wide-eyed girl who wears two ponytails. Though not much older, she takes good care of her younger brothers and sisters, offering unsparing advice on their daily lives. Naturally, she becomes a friend the young readers cannot do without. Though she is a fictional character, some Beijing children try to telephone her. And every now and then, Big Sister receives a written invitation from a young reader. "Do come to see us, Sister," one such letter reads. "We'll see you at the railway station when you arrive." Although Big Sister can never make such a trip, she, like the other characters, lives in the hearts of millions of children. □

FROM THE CHINESE PRESS

Drama Criticism Needs a Response

from "WENYI BAO"
(Literary Gazette)

WU Zuguang, a noted Chinese dramatist, recently wrote an article on theatre criticism. The following are his main points:

In recent years I travelled to several provinces and municipalities and found that the condition of drama is not so encouraging. Writing a drama takes six months or more, but, after it is on stage for a very short time, it disappears from sight because it can no longer capture an audience.

Generally speaking, dramatists in Beijing stand a better chance because they have a bigger audience. But even they have to be very careful in choosing a good topic and maintaining high standards in their work.

These days the audience is not easy to satisfy and its interests are more complicated. A political slogan won't arouse enthusiasm. Audiences appreciate real art and want to see details of life. They want to put themselves in the play and live together with the characters. They really hate stereotypes.

To develop our theater, drama criticism is vitally important. In the past, if a play was criticized, it was soon to die. It disappeared from the stage and the next step was self-criticism by the author. I feel a step has been missing between criticism and self-criticism, that is counter-criticism. Drama criticism should not carry so much weight. It should not be the final say. The criticized author should be given a chance to explain his work, defend it, and offer counter-criticism. If the art

debate were two-sided, our culture would be enlivened.

I seldom see counter-criticism in newspapers and magazines. Most dramatists remain silent after they have been criticized. Maybe the dramatist has a different idea about his play and wants to write another one, but after he is attacked he stops writing. We should encourage debate on art, otherwise this one-sided criticism could silence our dramatists.

After the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee (at the end of 1978), debate about art has increased. In Beijing and other big cities, a writer's freedom is generally respected. But in remote areas, small cities and towns, leaders often interfere with the work of playwrights and theatrical companies.

Criticism and counter-criticism should be equally allowed. We ought to seek truth, as well as correct mistakes. I believe this can add new energy to our drama art.

Self-Employed Man Joins the Party

from "RENMIN RIBAO"
(People's Daily)

LUO Xinghai, a self-employed piano repairman in the Changning District of Shanghai, was recently accepted as a Communist Party member. He is the first self-employed person in Shanghai to be accepted into the Party.

Luo, a real master at his craft, began working on pianos at the age of 15 and has been at his trade for 30 years. He has a good reputation among his customers because of his excellent service. His motto is, "Do nothing which is unfair and make no easy money." He once politely turned down an offer to become a senior

piano repairman in a Hongkong music shop.

Luo said, "I don't work for money. It is my greatest pleasure to contribute my speciality to my country." He frequently repairs pianos and organs for kindergartens and schools at no charge. He also organizes self-employed people to provide services on the streets and in the homes of the elderly.

As the only deputy for the self-employed workers of Shanghai, Luo attended the 10th national conference of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions, and was elected a people's deputy for Changning District last year.

Art Exhibition Held by Peasant

from "WENHUI BAO"
(Wenhui Daily)

QIANG Bingrong, a young peasant from Songjiang County in Shanghai, recently hosted an art

exhibition in his new two-storey home.

The family art exhibition showed a total of 104 woodcuts, oils and watercolours displayed in eight rooms. Cheng Shifa, a

famous Chinese painter, contributed an inscription in his own calligraphy that was hung over the door. It reads, "Peasant Family Art Exhibition."

The exhibition included the works of Qian, his wife, his 10-year-old son and his 7-year-old daughter, as well as those of peasants from nearby villages.

Among the 104 works, one entitled *Bumper Harvest Year After Year* painted by Qian and his wife won an award from the Ministry of Culture. It was also honoured by the Chinese Artists' Association in the National Exhibition of Peasant Paintings of 1983, and was added to the collection of the Chinese Folk Art Museum. *The Night of Riverside Village*, painted by Qian won another award in an exhibition called "The Spring of South

China" held in Shanghai. Qian was accepted as a member of Chinese Folk Art Society of Shanghai in 1981.

During the family exhibition, *Early Morning Market*, another of Qian's works, was especially well liked by the visitors. The painting vividly depicts peasants carrying their agricultural products by wheelcarts or shoulder poles to the morning market. The background is black, whereas the human figures, carts, stone bridges, cocks, dogs, bamboo bushes and trees are painted bright red, green and yellow. This gives the whole picture an atmosphere of quietness combined with movement.

The exhibition received support from the county and township governments, as well as from art-loving villagers.

Hu will help do the scientific research and make a clear copy of the manuscript Huang is working on, in return for about 100 yuan a month. For the last few months, they have worked together very well.

China: Home of The First Rocket

from "DAZIRAN TANSUO"
(Exploring Nature)

CHINA is the true birthplace of the rocket.

That's the conclusion of a research paper published earlier this year by Pan Jixing, an associate research fellow in the Institute of Natural Science History under the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

In "The Origin of the Rocket," Pan wrote that China was the first country to use gunpowder. By the 10th century, China had developed a workable formula for gunpowder and in the early 12th century it produced gunpowder which contained a large amount of nitre, which is the technical precondition for producing a rocket.

The article refuted previous theories that the rocket originated in India or the Byzantine Empire. Pan noted that both had no idea of how to produce gunpowder until they learnt it from another place. India learnt the technique from China in the 14th and 15th centuries, and the European countries came to know about gunpowder and rockets from China via Arab countries during the 13th and 14th centuries.

The author wrote that *pili* artillery was a kind of primitive rocket used by the army of Song Dynasty in Caishi Battle in 1161. That was possibly the first time the rocket was used in history.

Peasant Scientist Hires a Secretary

from "GONGREN RIBAO"
(Workers' Daily)

THE news that a peasant who became a scientist has hired an associate and secretary drew the attention of people all over Jiangsu Province.

At 40, Huang Heqing, lives in Wuxi County. When the contract responsibility system was introduced to his village, Huang used what he had learnt in senior high school to breed ground beetles, earthworms and snails. With the extra income, he soon became well off

In 1983, he edited and published two books, *Artificial Breeding of Ground Beetles* and *How to Cultivate Snails*. From these he earned 13,000 yuan, and was thus honoured as a peasant scientist. His book *Artificial Breeding of Ground Beetles* won him second prize in the nationwide scientific

and technological books competition in 1983.

Earlier this year Huang invested more than 10,000 yuan to build a three-storey building with six rooms, covering a floor space of 130 square metres, to conduct further research.

He raises pigs, snails, earthworms and bacteria-free flies on the ground floor, and grows rare flowers and saplings on the first and second floors. While continuing the commercial activities of cultivating and planting, he embarked on a new research project to find a comprehensive circulating production method for agriculture and livestock.

However, the heavy workload of research and writing pushed him to hire a secretary and an assistant. With the help of the township authorities, last March he chose worker Hu Jingfa to join him. According to their contract,

Young Troupe Keeps Shaoxing Opera Vital

A local opera troupe named "Budding Hundred Flowers" recently took Beijing audiences by storm with its performances of two plays and excerpts from other works. Using the charm of *yueju* (Shaoxing) opera, which has a southern flavour, the troupe won over even those who were originally not interested in *yueju* opera.

Five Daughters Congratulating Their Father's Birthday, one of the two plays, describes the treatment a father receives from his four daughters by birth and his one adopted daughter. While the father, a court official, holds high position and great wealth, the four daughters and their husbands show

every consideration for him. But when he is unjustly framed, they treat him like a stranger and drive him from their homes. But his adopted daughter and her husband aren't influenced by the false charges. They take good care of him until the wrong is righted. The play, through the artists' exquisite and distinct technique, expresses an old moral standard: advocate respect for the elderly and the virtuousness while opposing snobishness and ingratitude.

The main reason the play received wide acclaim lies in the strong performances of the young actresses who play every role. Though the play includes all types of roles, male and female, the actresses developed characteristics of different schools of this opera.

Originating in Shaoxing, south of Shanghai, *yueju* opera makes use of the local dialect. Compared with Beijing opera and other styles, this opera is notable for its soft and sweet vocal music and its subtlety expressive performance, making it the ideal opera for conveying tender feelings. In its 70 years of development, the artists of the old generation of *yueju* opera formed many schools with different characteristics, and each school attracted

its own admirers. The performers, mostly living in Shanghai, were popular in the 1940s, but all have since left the stage because of old age.

As suggested by its name, the "Budding Hundred Flowers" troupe showcases young actresses. The troupe consists of 28 people, all of whom were chosen from scores of troupes in Zhejiang Province, where the opera originated. Some members had been trained in theatrical schools, while others came straight from peasant families but had natural artistic talent. In order to keep the best of *yueju* opera alive, the troupe decided to employ the singing styles of several old *yueju* schools. This variety of styles is demonstrated in the *Five Daughters Congratulating Their Father's Birthday*.

The smart manner and graceful carriage of Fu Quanxiang, who held great fame in the 1940s and 1950s for her leading female role in the love tragedy *Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai*, can be seen in the performance of the actress who plays the third daughter. Her tender and sweet voice reminds audiences of the famous Fu.

The husband of the third daughter is played by a 17-year-old girl, whose simple, realistic and expressive performance remind opera lovers of her teacher, Fan Ruijuan. Fan played the leading male part in *Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai*, and was popular with audiences at home and abroad for her honest and graceful acting in her days.

The 23-year-old girl who portrays the old father leaves a deep impression on the audience with

Young players of the "Budding Hundred Flowers" opera troupe.



her sonorous voice and imposing appearance. Her sorrowful solo in the fourth act, when the father tearfully bids farewell to his daughters who are reluctant to have him in their care really touches the audience's hearts. She brings back memories of Zhang Guifeng, who established her *yueju* opera fame with a vibrant stage presence, a booming voice and an ability to convey emotions.

Even the performance of the 18-year-old girl who plays a snobbish and sharp-tongued maid takes on the characteristics of her teacher, Lu Ruiying, as she displays a sweet, mellow voice and exquisitely expresses feelings. Lu, younger than the famous actresses already mentioned, is from the first generation of *yueju* opera actresses brought up in New China and welcomed in Shanghai in the 1950s. Combining vitality with tenderness, she was particularly good at playing clever and quiet young girls or heroic women. She is now over 50.

The troupe's Beijing success is partly due to the renovations made on the opera. In order to make the opera suit the taste of a 1980s audience, the artists made experimental changes in the script, direction, performance and stage work. A simplified setting expresses an elegant style. With Western instruments such as the violin, bass and electric organ combined with traditional Chinese string and wind instruments, the music conveys a wider range of feelings. Using dramatic techniques, the actresses go beyond the traditional stylized movements, making their portrayals more realistic.

Yuan Xuefen, vice-chairman of the Chinese Dramatists' Association and president of the Shanghai *Yueju* Opera Institute, wrote in an article published in *Renmin Ribao* (People's Daily): "These youngsters, like blooming flowers, give people the vitality of youth.

Although there is still much to be desired in their artistic accomplishments, you just can't help loving them after seeing their performance. This is a vital new force in *yueju* opera, and they represent the hope and future of this opera." Yuan, 62, who herself was a well-known *yueju* actress, began her stage career at 14. In the 1940s she worked on reforming the *yueju* opera style, contributing to changes in scripts, staging, music and singing styles.

Women Cagers Nipped in Final

South Korea's women's basketball team outplayed its Chinese counterpart, 62-61, to win the 10th Asian Women's Basketball Championship on Oct. 24 in Shanghai.

The south Koreans, silver medallists at the 23rd Olympiad, were pitted against the Chinese, bronze medallists in Los Angeles, in the finals. In the seesaw battle, the Chinese led at the end of the first half, 34-29.

But in the second half the south Koreans focused their attention on stopping China's top scorer, Song Xiaobo, from getting to the basket. They also successfully pulled off several fast breaks, a stunt the Chinese weren't expecting. Although the Chinese maintained a three-point lead with only two minutes remaining, they committed a few fatal mistakes, and the south Koreans came from

behind to grab the win and the championship.

For the 10 teams from Asia, the Shanghai championship turned out to be a showcase for their progress. As R. Busnel, chairman of the International Basketball Federation, put it, "Asia has fought its way into the international arena with its skills, agility and volatile tactics."

In the past the shorter stature of Asian players often spelled defeat in major international contests. To battle the handicap, quite a few Asian countries are finding taller and stronger hoopers, while smaller cagers are speeding up their pace and sharpening their shooting ability.

The final rankings in the Shanghai championship were: south Korea, China, Japan, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, India, Macao, Hongkong and Sri Lanka.

Song Xiaobo (with ball) looks for help during the Chinese women's 61-62 loss to south Korea.



China's Physical Geography Outlined

An Outline of China's Physical Geography

Written by: Ren Meie, head of the geography department of Nanjing University, and others

Published by: Foreign Languages Press

Distributed by: China International Book Trading Corporation (Guoji Shudian), P.O. Box 399, Beijing, China

The People's Republic of China has the world's largest population, living in one of the biggest countries. The needs of economic development and the ever-growing exchange between China and other countries has made it important to compile and publish a special book presenting a scientific account of China's physical geography.

Professor Ren Meie, the principal writer, studied in Britain in his youth and is one of the well-known geographers in China. He is now teaching at Nanjing University.

After many years of painstaking efforts, the professor, together with Bao Haosheng and Yang Renzhang at Nanjing University, has accumulated and studied a large body of material. The result is the first comprehensive study of Chinese geography published since liberation.

The book is divided into two sections: a general overview and a region-by-region account. The first part describes the basic physical characteristics of China. The second part divides the country into eight geographical regions, for more detailed study and comparison. It also looks into the problems of how to best use China's

natural resources and develop as much arable land as possible.

Because 80 per cent of China's population lives in the rural areas, agriculture is the foundation of the nation's economy. In recent years China's rural economy has gone through major reforms, with good results. But problems in adapting agriculture to local conditions, diversification of production and modernization remain to be solved.

The authors put forward many suggestions as to how to better use and transform the natural environment. In the northeast, for example, the Greater and Lesser Hinggan Mountains and other mountainous regions are densely forested, known as the "treasure of green gold." The Songhua River and Nunjiang River Plain, one of the most fertile areas of the country, has great potential to support more agriculture and livestock. The vast areas of the temperate zone forest and forest grassland grow together with large areas of meadow and marshland. Based on these natural characteristics, the authors studied how to build a grain base, transform the marshland and renew forest resources in the region. This will provide readers with a better understanding of the orientation of China's agricultural development.

Because China is so big, it encompasses a complex variety of physical conditions, many of them poorly documented. The years since liberation have seen a rapid development in geographical surveys and studies. Much data has been accumulated, especially for remote areas such as Tibet, Qinghai, Xinjiang and Yunnan, where geographical information was

scarce or even non-existent before liberation.

Some theories put forward in the book, such as the principles of dividing physical regions, the delineation of tropical and subtropical zones and the division of quasi-tropical zones, are bound to cause some lively discussion.

A further discussion of natural reserves is expected for a later edition, as ecological protection has become a major issue of concern both at home and abroad.

—Teng Yipei

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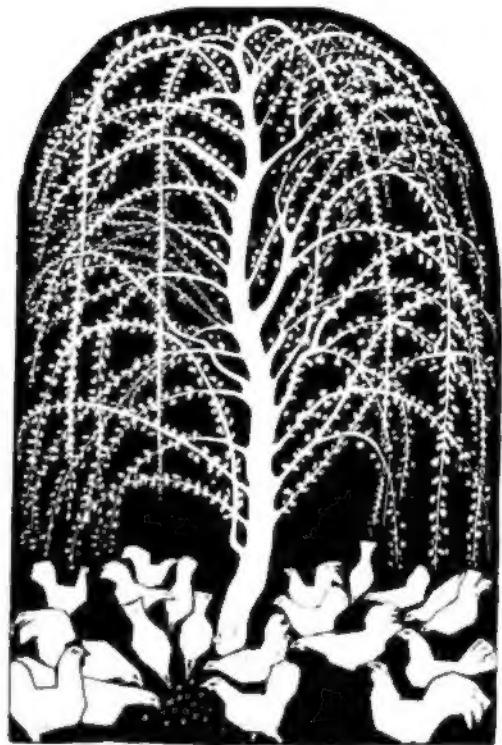
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